Bible & Daily Living

Church deals with suffering

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER

Hearing the Hurt of Humanity

Lesson for April 4, 1982
Bible Study Passages: Mark 7:32-37; 10:46-52
Introduction

In these days of economic unpheaval there are many people who are suffering. Many persons have lost their jobs or have been laid off. Others who depend upon government support are feeling the crunch and having to live on what is very little. Some of the cutbacks have choked the pocketbooks of the poor and needy.

The church can never turn a deaf ear to the cries of suffering humanity. The problems are not just here at home. There is suffering around the world in the form of hunger, oppression and injustice. There is also spiritual hunger for many who have no hope or light to brighten their path. The church must give an ear and a hand to those who cry out for help.

The church is sometimes guilty of taking care of itself when it was founded by Christ to care for others. Perhaps the church will one day have to account for the exorbitant edifices and monuments it has built to itself. My home church built a "monument to God" to the tune of over one million dollars! This church is never even half full on any given Sunday. The church that spends most of its money on itself can hardly think to attract large numbers of people. Jesus might say to us, "Ye shall know the church by its fruits."

Ministry to the Deaf and Dumb [Mark 7:32-37]

Jesus was not limited in his ministry to the Jews only. He also sought to bring God's grace to the Gentile as well. In Decapolis Jesus meets a man who could neither hear nor speak. Jesus is sensitive to the man's embarrassment and takes him off away from the audience.

It's strange, but suffering tends to attract an audience. People are attracted to the pains and tragedies of others, often out of curiosity. Hopefully, we will be attracted to suffering out of a sense of compassion and a willingness to become involved.

We will note that after Jesus placed his fingers in the man's ears, he looked up into heaven as a gesture to show that it was from God that healing would come. The story once again reveals the compassion that Christ held for individuals. He labored to bring healing and salvation to those who cried for help.

A Blind Man Sees [Mark 10:46-52]

The next portion of our study takes place when Jesus passes through Jericho enroute to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem. In his travels Jesus encounters blind Bartimaeus sitting alongside the road. He inquires who is passing, and when someone mentions it is Jesus, he springs to his feet and begins to shout in order to attract Jesus' attention. Here was a beggar begging for restored sight, not money. He made such a fuss that the procession was stopped and he was taken to Jesus.

Bartimaeus was a desperate man. He was not merely a curiosity seeker who tested everyone who claimed to have any powers. He came to Christ on a statement of faith, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." His bold act of faith brought him his heart's desire to receive his sight.

Jesus responds to the blind man with his characteristic sense of love and compassion. The response of Bartimaeus was that of gratitude. So grateful was he that he immediately followed Jesus along the way. Gratitude and loyalty are what Jesus desires from his followers.

The church has been described by Elton Trueblood as "the company of the committed." The church is called of Christ to listen and respond to the cries of humanity with compassion. The church cannot be the church as long as it turns a deaf ear to the suffering in the world. Bumper sticker theology, nifty slogans and religious jargon will not communicate to those who long for healing of the body, mind and spirit.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WL-YP).

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Services slated

Maundy Thursday "Tenebrae" Service will be celebrated at Memorial United Methodist Church on Thursday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Easter services planned

The Rustburg Christian Chorus will present "Then Came Sunday" by Rodger Strader four times during the Easter Season. Following is the schedule:

April 4 - Bethlehem United Methodist Church - Concord.

April 6 - Bethany United Methodist Church.

April 9 - Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church.

April 11 - Yellow Branch Baptist Church.

All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

The narrator will be Lou Merricks. Soloists are Shelby Cutshall, Mrs. June Keesee, Mrs. Sandy Keesee, Tom Phillips, and Bob Winston.

Mrs. Teresa Russell is the director of the chorus and Roy Blankinship is technical director.

Taped orchestral accompaniment will be used.

This is the fifth year the group has performed at Easter.

Sunrise service set

The churches of Appomattox invite you to the Community Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church. Rev. Mr. Peter Hale, pastor of Appomattox C. H. Presbyterian Church will preach. Special music will be provided by the Sanctuary Choir of Memorial United Methodist Church. The public is invited.

Services planned in Pamplin

Pamplin United Methodist Church, Elon Baptist Church and Beale Memorial Presbyterian Church will hold Community Services at Pamplin on Monday, Thursday and Good Friday.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday, the services will be held at Beale Memorial Presbyterian Church. Good Friday Service will be held at Elon Baptist Church.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

The Pastor Speaks

By Rex J. Bennett

Normally, this question concerning the how of becoming a Christian, is answered in three words: repentance, faith, and obedience. All of which is absolutely true, but what exactly does this all mean? It is interesting to note how our Lord explained this experience in Matthew 5:1-9 without even using the words repentance, faith, or obedience. Those necessary experiences are there, but the actual words are no...commonly, we call this scripture the **Beatitudes**, and we look upon them as mere pious phrases, or pulpit platitudes, or words that flow beautiful when recited. However, these words tell us how to become a Christian!

First, the word "blessed" means "congratulations" - and it is as if Jesus is saying to us that God is pleased with us as we assume these necessary attitudes in our lives. And those attitudes are given, and they proceed in the necessary order of their importance.

1. **Congratulations** to "the poor in spirit." That is, those who are spiritual bankrupt and know it; they who know themselves to be spiritual paupers or bums in the sight of God. That is the beginning of the Christian experience: we are sinners all and we all need help.

2. **Congratulations** are they that mourn." That is, those who know themselves to be spiritual paupers, but they are not satisfied with that condition. They sorrow over it; they mourn about it; which is really the beginning of repentance.

3. **Congratulations** "are the meek." This word **meek** in the Greek language means "a wild stallion being brought under control." In simple words, we know we are spiritually bankrupt; we sorrow over it; and we then submit ourselves to the disciplinary grace of God in Christ. Only God can do anything with our spiritual condition, with our sins.

4. **Congratulations** "are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.. ...." After we have allowed God to deal with our sins; our hunger and thirst for that which is right is just as natural and normal as our hunger for food and thirst for water.

5. **Congratulations** "are the merciful." Since God has shown us unmerited favor or grace or mercy; then we too will show the same to all others. We receive from God not what we deserve, but what we need; and so we do likewise in our relationships with our fellow human beings.

6. **Congratulations** "are the pure in heart." Isn't that amazing; we begin as spiritual paupers and we become absolutely loyal to God in Christ? Pure is the way of God and purity becomes our way.

7. **Congratulations** "are the peacemakers." Again, how amazing, we are no longer at war with ourselves and with others, but we are at peace with both! Since God is the great Peacemaker, and we are His children, we begin to favor our Father.

Notice: Repentance, faith, and obedience are all here; and the end result is always the same: "Ours is the Kingdom of God."

Rex J. Bennett is pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox, Va.

Keep Up With Local Happenings Read The Times-Virginian

Catholics set services

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church will hold Pre Easter Communal Penance Service this Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Observance of Palm Sunday will be Sunday at 11:30.

Holy Thursday Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service will be held at 5:30 p.m. Easter Mass will be celebrated during Vigil Service on Holy Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Variety show slated

Charlie and Sue Grimm of Lynchburg will present a Christian Variety Show at Yellow Branch Baptist Church on Rt. 29, this Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

The program will consist of Christian music, ventriloquism, gospel magic and balloon sculpture. Nursery provided.

Gravel Hill

The Holiness Gospel Singers of Pamplin will sing at the Gravel Hill Baptist Church Saturday, April 3 at 7 p.m.

This event is sponsored by Deacon O. T. Woolridge.

Chairman named

Mrs. Daniel Harvey of Evergreen was named Mental Health Chairman for the May, 1982 fund campaign, announced Karen B. Stipes, President of the Mental Health Association in Virginia.

As Chairman, Mrs. Harvey will recruit volunteers who will go house-to-house during May.

"Proceeds will benefit the Mental Health Association in Virginia," said Mrs. Stipes. As a non governmental agency, the Association can and does speak for the consumer - the person who needs professional help for an emotional disturbance.

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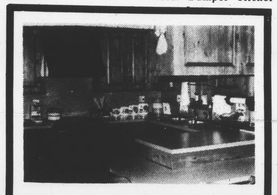

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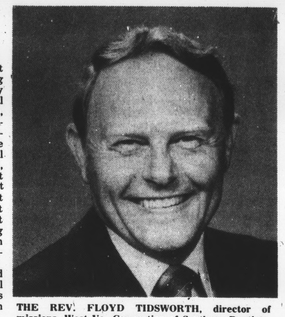
Easter musical is planned

An Easter musical, 'It Took A Miracle' by John Peterson will be proclaimed by a 100 voice choir composed of residents of our county on Sunday afternoon, April 4 at 3:00 at the Appomattox County High School auditorium. It will be accompanied by orchestration trac and will be directed by Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan.

County residents are cordially invited to attend. There is no admission fee.

Choir members attending rehearsals have been from the following churches: Hollywood Baptist Church, Hebron Baptist Church, Providence Baptist Church, Salem United Methodist Church, Evergreen United Methodist Church, Spout Spring Baptist Church, Liberty Baptist Church, Memorial United Methodist Church, Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, Rocks Baptist Church, New Hope Baptist Church, Peaceful Grove Baptist Church, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Bible Baptist Church, Jordan Baptist Church, Canaan Baptist Church, Mt. Obed Baptist Church, Reedy Spring Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and Evergreen Baptist Church.

This musical is dedicated to the memory of John Hall in remembrance of his contribution of music in our county churches.



THE REV. FLOYD TIDSWORTH, director of missions, West Va. Convention of Southern Baptists, will conduct an Easter Revival at the Reedy Springs Baptist Church April 7-11 at 7:30 each night. The Rev. Kim Kerr, minister of the church, invites the public to attend the revival.

Times-Virginian
Church News

Revival slated

The Pamplin United Methodist Church will hold revival services April 7 through 11.

Beginning at 7:30 each evening, the following is the order of services: Sunday...Bible Study in Revelation; Monday...Discussion Group; Tuesday... Singspiration; and Wed... The Rev. Donald Collins, pastor of Sharon Mt. Carmel Charge will be the speaker for the evening.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Holy Week services planned

The Holy Week Services, April 5 through 9 will be at the Memorial United Methodist Church. The worship service will be at noon with lunch served at 12:30. The public is invited. The churches hosting the services and lunches are: Monday - Our Lady of Peace Catholic; Tuesday - St. Anne's Episcopal; Wednesday - Liberty Baptist; Thursday - Appomattox C. H. Presbyterian; Friday - Memorial United Methodist.

Galilee church news

The Appomattox Assembly, a non-profit organization will hold its council meeting Thursday night, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. at Galilee Baptist Church. The regular meeting will be held Thursday, April 8, 7:30. All council members are urged to attend the council meeting, other members the regular meeting.

The Assembly has recently made a donation for fuel to a cold home and made a donation to a family whose home was lost by fire. The Assembly wants to help you solve your problems, but we need your assistance to be able to help the elderly, and disadvantaged.

We sponsored a program at Galilee Baptist Church Sunday that was very successful. Rev. Donald Hamlet and the Male Chorus from the new Hat Creek Baptist Church of Brookneal, Va. were the special guests. He spoke on the subject "God is Still Working", taken from John 20:31.

Gospel sing is planned

There will be an evening of gospel singing this Saturday night at 7:00 at the Gethsemane Baptist Church at 450 Oakley Ave., Lynchburg.

Featured in this event will be the Virginia Echoes and other popular trios from the area.

The Rev. R. B. Baber, pastor of the church, invites all to attend.

Canaan

Easter sunrise service will be conducted the second Sunday, April 11 at 5:30 a.m.

Regular worship service will be held April 11 at 11:30 a.m. The Rev. C. L. Elliott pastor, is in charge.

The United Choir will render the music.

The Men's Club will sponsor a program the 4th Sunday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

The Rev. Harrison Kelso, and one of his choirs, will be guests for the occasion. Mr. Lacy Webb is in charge of the service.

Jordan Baptist

On Friday night the Youth Services Singers were special guests along with the Rev. Coleman at the Jordan Baptist Church in celebration of the Harmonetts' anniversary. Several parents accompanied the singers.

The Appomattox Assembly sponsored a special program at Galilee Sunday at 3 p.m. Rev. Hamlett and the Men's Chorus from Hat Creek Baptist Church were our special guests. The progam was very inspiring and enjoyed by all present.

The Jets Unlimited participated in a musical program at Jordan Sunday at 6 o'clock. Many area groups were present for the anniversary, program.

The Rev. Robert Jones will be speaking at Galilee this Sunday at the 11 a.m. service. The Youth Services Singers will render the music.

All area churches are reminded to please support the American Cancer Society drive under way.

Rev. Tim Lawing and the YSD Singers will be in concert at Mt. Pleasant this Sunday at 4:00.

Thought for the week: Happiness is neither within us nor without us, it is the union of ourselves with God.

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Chestnut Grove

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Eder of Jacksonville, Fla spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Harris, and his parents in Farmville.

Allen Tolbert and Kyle Bryan are spending their spring vacation from V.P.I. /SU at Blacksburg with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tolbert and Rev. and Mrs. Dott Bryan.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Simpson of Prospect spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Kemper M. Beasley, Sr.

Billy Morris of Richmond is spending this week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin W. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Cook of Chesterfield were Saturday visitors in the same home.

Cindy Morris of Appomattox spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. C. Henson Morris. Mr. and Mrs. Billy Chappell of Dillwyn visited the Morris' Sunday.

Mrs. Sandi Morris Hardiman was honored with a miscellaneous shower Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Johnny M. Harris. She received many useful gifts.

C. Wayne Cook of Richmond spent Tuesday night with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook, en route to Clarksville.

Visitors of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Clabo of Farmville Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Kemper M. Beasley, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Tolbert, Mrs. Bob Bryan, Mrs. Joan Price and David and Mrs. W. T. Cook attended the church leadership training night at Maysville Baptist Church Monday, March 23.

Mt. Airy news

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us. Psalm 67:1

Regular worship service will be held on Sunday at the usual time with our pastor, the Rev. H. W. Pryor presiding. Plan to worship with us.

The Sunday School will have an Easter egg hunt on Easter Monday at Oakville School, starting at 11:00 a.m. Also, they will have a special sale.

The third Sunday in April at 3:00 p.m. the Brotherhood Club will be celebrating their anniversary with the Rev. Winston Jones bringing the message.

On Saturday night, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. the Peacemakers from Orange, Va. will be in concert.

Remember the sick and shut-in in prayer.

Thought: To turn our backs on others is to turn our back on Christ.

4-H News

Mrs. Coy's 4-H class met on Thursday, March 11. We said our pledges and played a game. We discussed our old business of pine seedlings, blue bird houses, and strawberry plants. New business was the 4-H presentation contest to be held on Saturday, April 3rd at 9:30. Our president adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Paulette
Reporter

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